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THE

MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN

Volume 49

Berkeley, Calif.

July-August 1967

Numbers 7-8

### GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON ELECTS OFFICERS

At the Golden Anniversary Banquet on June 8 the following nominees were presented by Warren Larson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and were unanimously elected to serve as officers of the Golden Gate Audubon Society for 1967-68:

Mrs. Herbert Boese .....	President
Mr. Joshua Barkin .....	Vice President
Mr. Edgar Stone .....	Vice President
Mr. Glen Ellwood .....	Treasurer
Mrs. John W. Dang .....	Recording Secretary
Miss Elizabeth McClave .....	Corresponding Secretary
Miss Bertha Underhill .....	Director

This issue of *The Gull* is a combined July-August issue. Professional Press, The Gull's printer, will be closed from July 7 to July 23. Golden Gate Audubon Society does not hold July and August meetings. Our next regular meeting will be in September.

### JULY-AUGUST FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, July 1** (as announced in the June *Gull*) South Peninsula Coast. Murrelets, murres, guillemots, purple martins, grasshopper sparrows, and black swifts could be seen by covering a variety of habitats. Meet at the Municipal Pier parking lot at Princeton on Half Moon Bay at **9 a.m.** Leader, Ted Chandik, 327-4575 (Palo Alto).

**Saturday, July 8**, to north side of Mt. Tamalpais. Meet in the center of Fairfax in the public parking lot at **8:30 a.m.** Leaders: Miss Patricia Triggs, 664-8502, and Mrs. R. O. Laist, 921-9427.

**Saturday, August 12**, beginners' field trip to Golden Gate Park for the purpose of learning to identify resident and migrating land birds. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the Steinhart Aquarium parking lot, which can be reached by taking the No. 10 Municipal Bus. Leaders: Glen Ellwood, 334-8512, and Mrs. Valeria DaCosta, 931-5257.

**Tuesday, August 15**, the above trip will be repeated, but meet at **9:30 a.m.** Leaders: Mrs. Vi Homem, 655-8886, and Mrs. Valeria DaCosta, 931-5257.

**Sunday, August 27**, boat trip off Monterey for hardy seafarers in an open fishing vessel to study migrating pelagic birds. Boat leaves Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey at **9 a.m.** and returns at **3 p.m.** Fare: \$7 per person. Make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 94109 **before August 15**. Space is limited. Leaders: Guy McCaskie, San Diego, and Rich Stalleup, San Jose.

NOTE: Our annual end-of-August field trip to observe migrating sooty shearwaters in the Rodeo Lagoon area will not be scheduled this year. Instead, we are listing a few observation points where, from the last week in August through the second week in September, countless thousands of sooty shearwaters can be seen (especially late in the afternoon) foraging for food while on their way to breeding grounds in New Zealand: — In San Francisco from Fleishhacker Zoo area to the Cliff House, and outer bay view areas in the Presidio. In Marin County — Point Bonita in the Rodeo Lagoon area, which can be reached by turning off the first exit (Sausalito) over the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco, and then turn left to Fort Cronkhite. Also drive north on state Highway #1 along the route to Stinson Beach and stop at the ocean view look-outs.

**Save Saturday, October 7**, for the off-Monterey pelagic trip. Details will appear in the September *Gull*.

Bring lunch, binoculars, and interested friends on all field trips.

The June 2nd issue of *Time* had a photo and brief story of our April boat trip to the Farallon Islands. — MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year has been a most eventful and productive one, highlighted by the National Audubon Convention, which enabled us to widen our acquaintance and enjoy excellent programs, and climaxed by the celebration of our own 50th Anniversary.

We have provided much enjoyment and enlightenment for ourselves and others through our field trips, our membership meetings, our wildlife films, *The Gull* and *The Cygnet*.

We have served the cause of conservation in many ways, as an organization and as individuals, financially and through articles and letters written, talks given, hearings attended, exhibits prepared, and through many personal contacts. Our conservation objectives have covered many aspects of the natural world, have included other states as well as California, and have even reached as far as East Africa.

Nearer home, we have contributed to Audubon Canyon Ranch, both financially to the extent of \$3,100, and by the providing of volunteer services. This included profits from a benefit film showing and from the pre-convention field trips, which were turned over to the Building and

Maintenance Fund, and \$1,000 was provided for the services of the naturalists. We also underwrote the *Annotated Field List of Northern California Birds*, and provided assistance to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, both financially and by volunteer services.

Our Nature Training Program has "come of age" as we conclude our first 2½ years under Rosenberg Foundation financing. This year the program had 177 enrollees in 84 separate sessions. These enrollees included 64 elementary teachers, 68 youth group leaders, 32 parents, and 13 camp counsellors. New this year was a workshop which demonstrated for "graduates" of the courses the making from inexpensive materials of equipment with which children can explore nature.

We have given much consideration to the advisability of dividing our large and widespread membership, and while we took no definite action we have, I believe, laid the groundwork for constructive decisions later. We gladly relinquished a part of our territory to the new Ohlone chapter in the Hayward area.

We face with great regret the prospect of the closing of the National Audubon Conservation Resource Center. Mary Jefferds has provided a wonderful service to Golden Gate Audubon Society in innumerable ways, and to the whole community in stimulation and coordination of conservation and nature education activities. We are glad that we can look forward to continuing to work with her in her new assignment.

Many of you will recall with satisfaction your part in one or more of our many activities, and many thanks are due to you for your help in keeping our organization so vital and productive. As president, I have been most fortunate in the support and help I have received. It has been a fine year, thanks to you all. Very best wishes to our new officers for a wonderful year ahead. — BERTHA UNDERHILL.

### WILDLIFE FILM SERIES TO BEGIN OCTOBER 16

Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter, our Audubon Wildlife Films Chairman, has announced the opening date for the 1967-68 series of films: — **Monday, October 16.** The new series of films will be presented in the Garfield School Auditorium on Rose St. near Josephine St., Berkeley. There is ample parking space near the school, and the large entry hall provides enough space for many people to wait indoors for their friends. The auditorium is large enough for us to sell 200 additional tickets this year. Bring your friends. The season ticket price for 5 wildlife films is \$5.00 for Audubon members, \$6.00 for non-members, and \$3.00 for students under 18. You may purchase tickets now by sending a check (payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society) to Audubon Wildlife Films, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, Calif. 94701. *Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.* Tickets will be mailed in September.

### COVEL'S CORNER

A brand new heron colony may be in the making in the Eastbay! The black-crowned night herons which roost on the Duck Islands in Lake Merritt from spring to fall finally decided to nest on the larger, original island.



Two nests were found in a large willow tree on April 27 this year. Two small young fell out of the lower nest and died, but the higher nest produced two strong youngsters, which we believe finally flew away from the nest. Heron nesting has long been expected and suspected in the jungle-like growth on these islands. An older park gardener tells of breaking up many heron nests on the original island back in the late 1920's because of the birds' predation on mallard ducklings. (We now enjoy a mallard surplus, in spite of marauding herons and gulls, but have to operate daily duckling roundups and a brooder unit in order to cheat these predators.)

The prolific Canada geese resident on Lake Merritt began hatching this year on April 14, on the larger island, and by May 1 there were seven broods totaling 37 goslings. There were at least two additional broods in May, but due mainly to inroads of *human predators* the total count of goslings on May 20 stood at only twenty. The lesser snow geese brought ashore their first family — five goslings — on May 19. This family was confined in a pen because past experience has shown the snow parents to be easily confused, often losing young when surrounded by other geese.

A high, night-flying band-tailed pigeon was identified for Alameda Naval Air Station, though only some feathers and part of the bill and a foot were brought to us. The bird crashed through the fuselage of a navy transport flying after dark at 9400 ft. altitude on April 20. We felt like Sherlock Holmes and now eagerly await another "armchair sleuthing" assignment for Uncle Sam! — PAUL F. COVEL

### FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Thanks to the kindness of Josh Barkin and the East Bay Regional Park management, a party of about 35 Golden Gate members had the pleasure on May 21 of birding in the newly acquired Briones park area. On a perfect summer day they counted some 50 species of birds. This is a beautiful region of grassy rolling hills and heavily wooded deep stream beds. The birds were singing and the flowers were blooming. — ALICE RADCLIFFE, *Leader*.

Derrick Andrews, Park Naturalist, led two hikes in Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Marin County (May 3 and May 6) through the redwoods to grassy hills covered with wildflowers. Highlights were good views of golden eagles in flight and perched, and chipping sparrows singing from posts around Devil's Gulch camp.

### OBSERVATIONS — NEAR AND FAR

From November 25, 1966 until April 15 this year, a white-throated sparrow resided in Inez Troxell's garden in Kensington. A white-throated sparrow also spent the winter in Judy Olson's Berkeley garden. On April 6 and 7 an immature white-throated sparrow visited the Homems' feeder in Oakland.

April 22 — A calliope hummingbird was observed by Phyllis Lindley and her birding-by-ear class in Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley.

April 25 — Phyllis Zweigart and Trix Machlis saw a hermit warbler in Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley.

May 19 — A pair of hermit warblers and 3 male lazuli buntings were observed in the pines at the summit of Big Springs fire road, Tilden Park, by Vi and George Homem about 7 p.m.

June 1 — Val DaCosta and Elsie Roemer found two least terns hovering near Alameda's south shore.

June 3 — A pair of Lawrence's goldfinches were building a nest in a tall maple in Welch Creek Canyon, Sunol Valley Regional Park — observed by Vi and George Homem.

Observations from our seagoing correspondent, W. Patrick Dunbar on board the U.S.N.S. *Perseus* "We sailed from Japan, May 9, and on the way back in three different areas I saw what I thought to be numerous flocks of phalaropes. The first area was about a thousand miles north of Wake Island, the second about seven hundred miles north of Midway and the last, twelve hundred miles north of the Hawaiian Islands. In the first two the birds were generally flying in a northwesterly direction (nearest land that way — Kamchatka and the Kurile Islands — 1800 miles). In the last area no particular direction and the flocks were quite often alighting on the water.

"In the South China Sea I took movies of large white-rumped swift and what I think was a cattle egret. By far the most interesting bird aboard was a ruddy kingfisher — slightly smaller than a robin; reminded me of pictures I've seen of a kookaburra. Upper parts are cinnamon red, — a large very thick beak which is bright red as are its feet. My reference book (*Birds in Japan*) says it inhabits rather thick forests and is not commonly seen. It is migratory! I got some quite good movies of it."

Our Howell Mountain correspondent, Frances K. Sorensen of Angwin, reports that the highlight of early spring was the visit of an immature Harris' sparrow on February 19. He visited her feeder every day until his departure on May 5 in breeding plumage. A friend photographed him in two plumages. "The crossbills scattered residue from pine cones all over my walks and patio in March and came again to thump down the remaining cones in April."

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members to our Society: *Berkeley* — Mr. and Mrs. Robert Estes, Miss Hope Gladding, Charles O. King Jr.; *Oakland* — Robert Philpott, Jr. Mrs. Victor Rosen, Mrs. Jason Schoener, Jean Strecker, Peggy Sunday; *San Francisco* — Dr. Edward Bland, John W. Edmisten, Mrs. Moses Grossman, Mrs. Archibald Kirkland, William R. Rand Mrs. Louise Salinger, Dr. Samuel Susselman, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Tiederman, Keith Van Wolfe; *El Cerrito* — S. Earl Saxton; *Kensington* — Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tolberg; *Los Banos* — Mrs. Roy Wattenbarger; *Richmond* — Arva H. Burtis; *Stanford* — Ronald B. Arps.

### CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY NEEDS HELP

"The remaking of the landscape we Americans rather uncritically call Progress poses new threats to the future of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary" according to the National Audubon Society, which maintains the 6,000-acre Sanctuary near Naples, Florida. 'Real estate developments in the region threaten to drain away the life-giving waters that maintain the swamp and its amazing life. The Society faces the need of ensuring a continuing flow of water. This will require new land acquisition and dike building."

The Audubon Society committed \$698,000 for land acquisition and diking to save the Sanctuary last year, and still is short \$213,000 of this amount to match a Ford Foundation grant which is adding one dollar to each two contributed to the Corkscrew fund.

The Golden Gate Audubon Board voted to contribute \$100 to the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, and individual members and friends are also urged to send contributions to this special fund (tax deductible) to National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10028.



### AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON

Under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies to protect a major rookery of Common Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

<i>In Memory of:</i>	<i>Gift of:</i>
Mrs. George Graham .....	Mr. and Mrs. Donald McLaughlin
James J. Jordan .....	Charles Smith
John L. Miller .....	Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Nicewonger
Eva Chambers .....	Dr. and Mrs. Jefferson Larkey
Frank Scott .....	Beth and Gene Johnson

A gift was made *in honor of* Otis Smith and his barbecue team by Mrs. Grace Miller. — DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*, 854 Longridge Rd., Oakland, Calif. 94610.

Canyon Ranch will close on July 5 and will re-open next March. *Birding in the Montreal Area* is a handy checklist with orientation maps compiled by the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, and is available in boxes of 50, without charge to Audubon groups, from Mr. B. L. Lapin, Director of the Society, 5035 Hampton Ave., Montreal 29, P.Q., Canada.



**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.  
TREASURER'S REPORT**

Cash in banks at May 31, 1966				\$9,875.17
OPERATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR ended May 31, 1967:				
RECEIPTS:				
Membership Dues		\$3,625.25		
Interest on Savings		291.05		
Audubon Wildlife Films: Income	\$1,991.50			
Expense	1,385.50	606.00	4,522.50	
DISBURSEMENTS:				
"GULL": Expense of Printing & Mailing	2,538.90			
Less Subscriptions	152.74	2,386.16		
"CYGNET" Expense of Printing & Mailing	669.14			
Less Subscriptions	178.00	491.14		
Field Trips and Meetings		130.73		
Insurance		50.00		
Christmas Bird Count		107.45		
Annotated Check List for Birds of Northern California production expense	1,482.66			
Less sales	1,061.00	421.66		
Miscellaneous Expense, Postage, Printing, etc.		1,133.67		
Gifts and Donations:				
Audubon Canyon Ranch				
Naturalist Program	1,000.00			
Miscellaneous	1,174.70			
Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory	500.00			
Condor Fund	200.00			
Patagonia-Sonoita Sanctuary	100.00			
Two one-half scholarships to "Camp of the West"	125.00			
Others	432.82	3,532.52	8,253.33	
Cash in banks at May 31, 1967				<u>\$6,144.34</u>

In addition to the above sums, \$1,165.18 was turned over to the Maintenance Fund of Audubon Canyon Ranch; this was the surplus derived from two projects of our members, sponsorship of a lecture by Dr. Pettigill (\$502.23) and co-sponsorship with Marin Audubon Society in a Pre-Convention Field Trip (\$463.95).

During the year Golden Gate received from the Lewis Foundation the sum of \$40,000.00 for the purchase of the "Galloway" property adjoining Audubon Canyon Ranch. This property is now held by us in trust, but is being administered by Audubon Canyon Ranch, Inc. in connection with the rest of the sanctuary property. — ALICE D. RADCLIFFE, *Treasurer*



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1967

THE GULL

JULY-AUGUST

## GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	Mrs. Herbert Boese	2057 Central Ave., Apt. G, Alameda	94501	522-2487
Vice President	Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley	94708	524-2495
Vice President	Edgar N. Stone	3867 Washington St., San Francisco	94118	751-2601
Treasurer	Glen Ellwood	274 Urbano Dr., San Francisco	94127	334-8512
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Jane Dang	1292 Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley	94708	848-0253
Corresponding Secretary	Miss Elizabeth McClave	1097 Green St., San Francisco	94133	776-3068
Director	A. Warren Larson	44 Rincon Rd., Berkeley	94707	525-9149
Director	Miss Bertha Underhill	35 Tamalpais Rd., Berkeley	94708	848-0131
Director	Robert C. DaCosta, Jr.	2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco	94109	931-5257
Editor	Mrs. Violet Homem	6911 Armour Dr., Oakland	94611	655-8886
Field Trips Chairman	Mrs. Valeria DaCosta	2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco	94109	931-5257
Membership Chairman	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco	94132	587-4163
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Zella Cushman	3156 Gough, San Francisco	94123	673-5310
Program Chairman				
Education Chairman	Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg	2585 Union, San Francisco	94123	921-9449
Sanctuary & memorial				
Fund Chairman	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Rd., Oakland	94610	451-6267
Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont	94611	655-9582
Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covell	2860 Delaware St., Oakland	94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film				
Distribution Chairman	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco	94116	681-7635

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$8.50 per year, Includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.